



¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for Reformation of the great abuses in Weights and Measures, and for the due execution of the Office of Clerke of the Market of Our Houshold, and throughout Our Realme of England.



Hereas by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our Realme of England, there should be but one weight and one Measure throughout the whole Realme; yet neuerthelesse wee are informed that there are at this day in Cities, Burroughes, and corporate Townes, and in many other parts and places of this Our Realme (especially in the Northerne and westerne parts, and in Our Counties Palatine of Lancaster and Durham, and Dominion of Wales) false and deceitfull weights and Measures of different contents one from another, and all disagreeing from Our Standard, appointed to be the rule and direction for them: And whereas wee are also informed, that many vnconscionable persons, haue, and doe vse severall weights and Mea-

sures, with the greater to buy, and with the lesser to sell; and doe also vse false and deceitfull beames and ballances, to the great losse and defrauding of Our Subiects, and especially of the poore sort, who are most sensible of the same:

And whereas the Clerke of Our Market, by the Lawes and Statutes of this realme, ought by his Office to enquire of the said abuses, and to punish and reforme the same, and ought also to set reasonable and indifferent rates and prices vpon Victuals and other provisions, chiefly in times of Our Progresse; and to foresee that the same be wholesome and of good condition and qualitie in their severall sorts, and ought also to inflict aswell pecuniarie as corporall punishment vpon the offenders, according to the severall qualities and degrees of their offences:

And whereas complaint hath beene made vnto Vs of the great negligence vsed in the execution of the said Office; partly, for that diuers which are trusted as Deputies to execute the same, haue beene hitherto ignorant what their power and Authority is, and partly, because diuers of them haue beene very carelesse and remisse, and respecting onely their owne private gaines, extort vniust fees, and either for fauour or reward spare the offenders, and neglect the publike Service wherewith they are trusted.

Wee therefore hauing taken the Premises into consideration, and foreseeing how much the plentie of this Realme might be increased, and the frauds and abuses now generally vsed in buying and selling, (especially by Inne-keepers and Victuallers) might be suppressed, if the Clerke of Our Market by himselfe, or by honest and discrete Deputies, did diligently and faithfully intend the execution of the said Office: And wee desiring nothing more (after the establishing of true Religion, and the Service of Almighty God) then by all good meanes to further and aduance the Peace and Plentie of Our louing Subiects, haue thought fit by this Our Royall Proclamation, to publish and make knowne to all Our louing Subiects, aswell, what by the Lawes and Statutes of this realme should and ought to be performed by the Clerke of Our Market and his Deputies, as what fees they may iustly require and take, and what courses they should holde for the better execution of their Service, and what Accompt wee expect, and haue determined to require at their hands, concerning this Service hereafter.





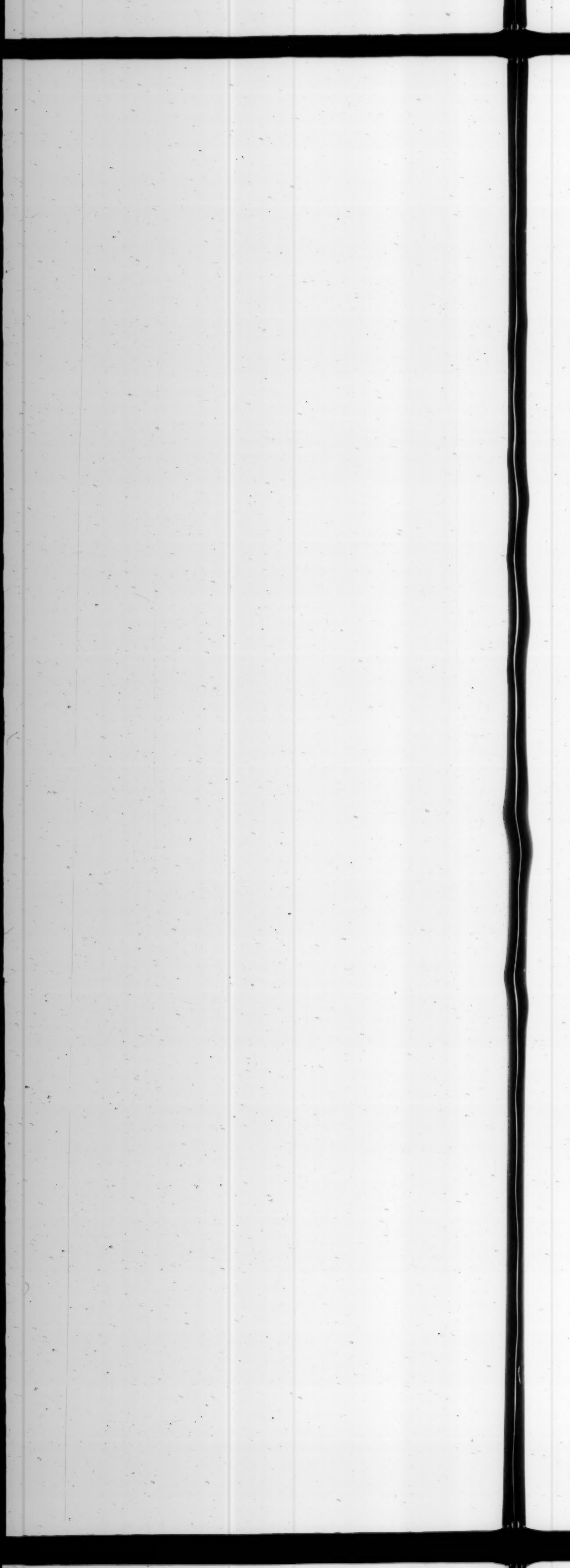
First, wee doe hereby signifie and declare, that the Office of the Clerke of Our Market, (being a very ancient Office of Our Crowne) by the Lawes and Statutes of Our Realme, ought to enquire of all abuses in Weights, Beames, Ballances, and Measures; and ought also to enquire of all Fallities, deceits and abuses in the Trades of Millers, Bakers, Brewers, Clinkers, Inne-keepers, Alehouse-keepers, Cookes, Victuallers, Fishmongers, Butchers, Chandlers, Grocers, Mercers, Clothiers, Clothworkers, Weavers, Tailours, Brokers, Tanners, Shoemakers, Smiths, Glouers, White-tawers, Haulsters, Corne masters, Colliers, Woodmongers, and generally of all other Artificers, Tradersmen, and other persons whatsoever, hauing or vsing Weights or Measures, as well to preuent deceits and frauds, as to punish the same.

Also he ought to search and inquire, that all Victuals and other things put to sale by them, for the sustenance or vse of mans body, and all provisions for their Horses or their Cattel be wholesome, and of good qualitie, and that their Manufactures be well and workemanlike made and wrought, and that they sell at, and for reasonable and moderate gaines, and not at unreasonable and excessive prices.

And further, That they ought especially to inquire of, and punish all Foresters, Ingrossers, and Regrators, who by their inordinate desire of gaine, doe inhaunse the prices of all things vendible, to the decay and overthrow of all publique and open Markets, and the hinderance of all Traffique and Commerce betwene man and man, and to the intent that the Clerke of Our Market may put in due execution that power, which by the Law is giuen vnto him, for the furtherance of Our Service, and the service of Our Common Wealth, wee doe will and straitly commaund, That the Clerke of our Market, and his Deputies, doe from hencefoorth with all diligence execute the sayd Office in all places, as well within the Terge, in the times of Our Progresses, that our Nobles, Seruants, Traine and Suits attending vpon our Person, & Court may be wel and honestly vsed and demeaned, as in all other places and parts of this our Realm whatsoever; And that from henceforth hee keepe his Sessions by himselfe, or his sufficient Deputy or Deputies, once in euery yeere at the least, in the severall Counties of this Our Realme, and in as many places of euery County, as shall be most conuenient for the general performace of the Service, and ease of Our people: And that he or they giue knowledge in Writing, of the Times & places, when & where their Sessions shalbe held by Precept, vnder Our Seal of the sayd Office, to be directed to the high Constables within the circuit of the Sessions, a conuenient time before such Sessions are to bee held: And that one or more of the Iustices of the Peace of the Countie, inhabiting within the circuit of that Sessions, may vpon reasonable notice be present at euery Sessions, the better to assist the Clerke of the Market, and to see Justice equally & indifferently executed: And that the Clerke of Our Market, and his Deputies, do diligently inquire by the Oathes of twelue men at the least, to be impannelled, returned, & sworn by him or them, in such maner as anciently they haue bene accustomed, of all Offences committed within the Precinct of that Sessions, contrary to the Lawes, and inquirable by them.

And that the chiefe Constables of the Hundreds, and the pettie Constables of euery Parish, and all other inhabitants there, shall vpon their Oathes, (being thereunto required by Our Clerke of Our Market, or his Deputy) giue euidence to the Iurie so to bee impanneled. And because wee are informed that the greatest deceits and abuses are committed, in Cities, Boroughs and Townes corporate, by the chiefe Officers there, who ought to reforme themselves and others within their seuerall Iurisdictions: Our expresse wil & commandement is, That they take speciall knowledge of our pleasure herein, and bend themselves to a speedie Reformation and conformitie thereunto: And wee will and commaund Our Clerke of Our Market, and his Deputies to giue vs, or Our Councell true Information of such persons as shall be found remisse or refractarie herein, To the ende that they may be proceeded against in such a course as their contempt shall deserue.

And because wee are informed, that the Buyers (the poorer sort especially) are much pinched, by sleights and deceits vsed in measuring: wee doe therefore hereby commaund the Clerke of Our Market, and his Deputies in all their Sessions, to make carefull and diligent enquire of all such fallities and deceits, and that they suppress all hooped Measures, which are or may be remooued deceitfully at pleasure. And wee do charge and commaund, that no Inholder or Hostler, vse any measure of Straw, or Wicker, or double Measure, to sell, or vtter their Prouender by: nor vse any Hostlerie measure, but such as shalbe sized & sealed by Our Clerke of Our Market. And that euery of them haue such a sealed Measure, continually hanging by a chaine at the doore of their Hostlerie, & all the rest of their Measures in their Hostleries to be answerable thereunto, & sealed, that so the Traveller, or Passenger may not be deceiued of his due measure. And





further, that there be no Weights, or Measures vled, by any person or persons whatsover, but such as shall be of such matter & substance, as are fit to receiue and retaine the impression of Our Scale, and such as shall be sized by our Standard, and sealed as aforesaid, and accordingly allowed and sealed by Our Clerke of Our Market. And that no person or persons whatsoener, doe buy or sell, by any other Weights or Measures, nor vent their Commodities otherwise, but by such sealed weights and measures as aforesaid.

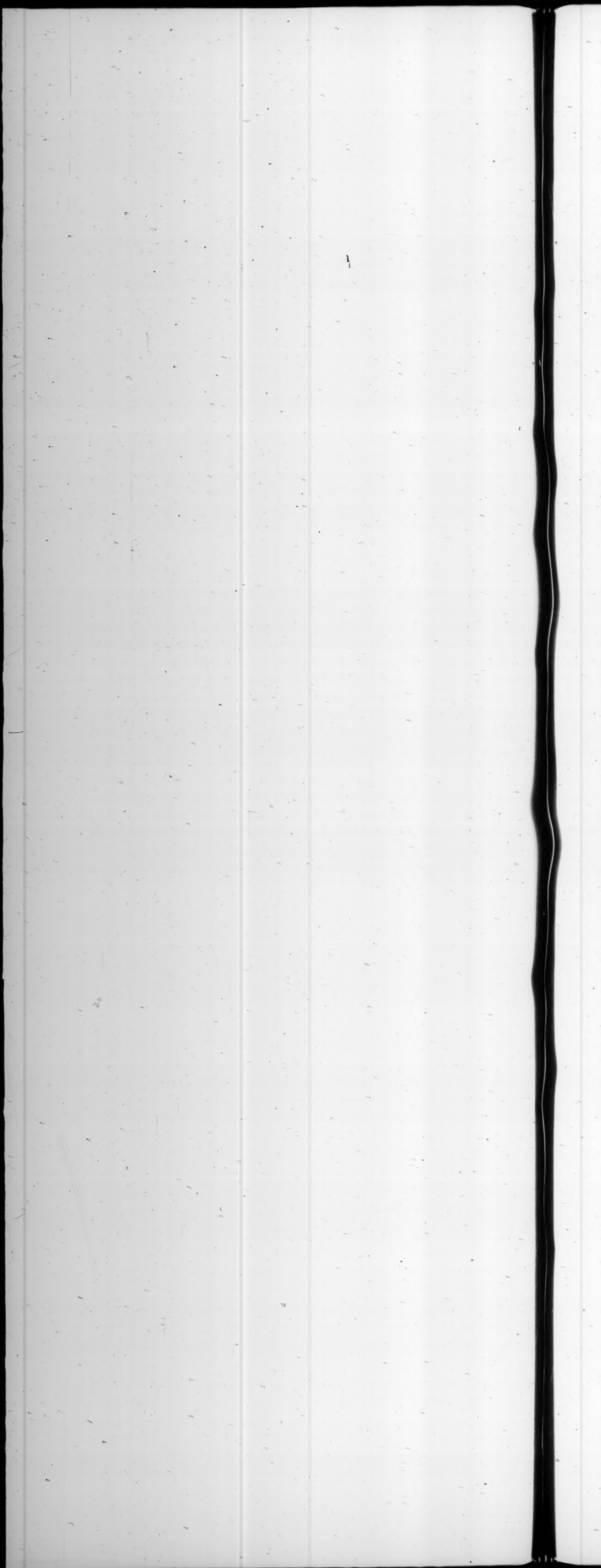
And wee doe straitly charge and command Our Clerke of Our Market, and his Deputies, that when any offence shall be discovered, and duely found out by them or any of them, that hee or they doe not neglect nor omit (either for sauour or reward) to aslesse reasonable fines, and other punishments vpon the offenders, according to the natures & qualities of their offences, and the condition of the offendours; And the same being so aslessed, that he and they cause the same to be duly estreated and leuiued vpon the offendours, for the vse of Us, Our Heires and Successors, by such waies and meanes, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our Realme are warranted and appointed, and that heerein they faile not, as they tender Our high displeasure or would auoide that punishment which their negligence herein shall deserue. And because Our Clerke of the Market of Our Housholde, and his Deputies, may bee encouraged to execute their places with diligence and integritie, and may haue their iust and reasonable Fees allowed, and may not exact vniust Fees or Rewards, to the grieue or oppression of Our louing Subiects; wee haue thought fit herewithall to limit and expresse the due Fees, which he or his Deputies onely (and none other such Officer) may require and take, as the same haue bene lately examined and approued of, by the Lords and others Our Officers of Our Greencloth, and so remaine recorded in Our Counting-house; a Schedule whereof wee haue hereunto annexed. And if it shall happen Our said Clerke or any of his Deputies, in the execution of their said places, by cutting or paring any weight or Measure, shall spoile or impayre the same; Our Will and pleasure is, that then hee or they shall make present payment of the value thereof to the owner, or if hee shall directly or indirectly exact or take any greater Fee or reward then by the said Schedule is expresse, vpon complaint made by any of Our louing Subiects, finding themselves iustly grieued therewith, to the Lord Steward, Treasurer, or Comptroller of Our House, the party offending shall haue his deserued punishment, and the partie wronged shall haue speedie recompence for the same.

And to the intent that Our Service may be the better performed, we straitly charge and command Our Clerke of Our Market, that hee make no Deputy from henceforth, but such as shall be of sufficiencie & ability to performe the place, and which shall not himselve be either Vintener, Inne-holder, Victualler, or other Tradesman, vsing the Trade of Buying and Selling: And that this Our Proclamation for the better instructing of all Our louing Subiects, shall before the Feast of All-Saints now next comming, be proclaimed in euery Market Towne throughout Our Realme, and be hanged vp and fastened in a Table in euery Market place by an Officer, where it may continue to be seene and read by any that will.

And further, That it shall be read in euery Parish Church before the said Feast of All Saints next comming, in a fit time and space, betweene the beginning and ending of Common Prayer vpon the Sunday or Holy day, by the Minister or Clerke of the Church, and so from thenceforth once at euery Feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, and once at euery Feast of Saint Michael the Arch-angel, by the space of five yeeres next comming; and shall be hanged vp and preserved in euery Church in a Table, to be seene and read at all times by any that will. And that the defaults of Officers, Ministers, Clerkes, & Church Wardens in this behalfe, shall be enquired of, and punished by Our Iustices of Assize, and Iustices of Peace in their Sessions, according to their discretions, as contemners of our Royall commandement. And wee doe straitly Will and command, That all our Iustices of Assize, Iustices of Peace, Sheriffes, Our Clerke of the Market, his Deputie or Deputies, & all Mayors, Bailiffes, and other Officers of Cities, Boroughs, Liberties & Townes corporate, high Constables, petty Constables, Tithing-men, and other our Officers and Ministers, in all places wheresoeuer, doe cause this present Proclamation to be duely executed, and to be from time to time ayding and assisting to their vttermost, vnto Our Clerke of Our Market, and his Deputies, in the due execution of his Office, as they tender Our Service herein, the Common Wealth of this Realme, and Our high displeasure.

Giuen at White-hall, the second day of February, in the Sixteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and Fiftieth.









¶ A Declaration of the Fees due to the Clerke of the Market, of his  
Maiesties most Honorable Houshold, and all England, for the execution of  
his Office, set forth in *Anno regni Regis IACOBI Angliae &c. xiiij.*  
ANNO DOM. 1616.

**F**irst, for sealing of every new bushell, for entering the same, with the name and dwelling place  
of the Owner thereof. iii. d.

Item, for sealing of every halfe bushell, for entering the same, the Owners name, and dwell-  
ling place. ii. d.

Item, for new Sealing of every lesser Measure or weight, for entering the same, with the names  
and dwelling places of the Owners thereof. i. d.

Item, for recording of every Victuallers name, his dwelling place, and for viewing and exami-  
nation of every particular Victuallers Ale and Beere Measures, be they neuer so many, and for  
entering the same. ii. d.

Item, for recording of every Inholders and Vintners name, and dwelling place, and for view-  
ing, or examination of every particular Inholders and Vintners Ale and Beere, wine, and  
Hostery Measures, be they neuer so many, and for entering the same. iii. d.

Item, for recording of the names and dwelling places of every Butcher, Grocer, Chandler,  
Mercer, Draper, Clothier, or any other person, entering of all their weights, Measures, Elles,  
Yards, Beames and Ballances, and for trying and examination of the same, be they neuer so  
many. ii. d.

Item, for new Sealing of every Elle or Yard, at both endes, entering the same, with the names  
and dwelling places of the owners thereof. ii. d.

Item, for trying and examination of every Bushell formerly sealed, entering the same, with the  
name and dwelling place of the owners thereof. ii. d.

Item, for the Trying or examination of every lesser Measure formerly Sealed, entering of the  
same, with the name and dwelling place of the owners thereof. i. d.

Item, for Trying and examination of every weight and Measure of any person or persons, that  
shall be found repugnant vnto his Maiesties Standard, which shall sell any Commodities by  
a lesser weight or Measure, or shall buy any Commodities by a greater weight or Measure, to  
the deceipt of the Subjects. ii. d.

God saue the King.

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ANNO M.D.C.XVIII.

